

Amendments to the Drawings

A corrected Fig. 43 is enclosed.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of November 10, 2005 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the specification, drawings and claims and the below Remarks directed thereto.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

page 4, line 3, page 13, line 3, page 14, line 22, page 17, lines 9 and 37 and page 22, line 1 of the present specification are amended to omit reference to Fig. 17C;

Fig. 43 is amended to include the reference sign "500", as is described at page 8, lines 8-11 of the present specification;

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the printhead module is mounted to the casing to form a print surface from which the printing fluid is delivered onto the print media, and that the print media guide is mounted to the casing adjacent the print surface so that a print media contact surface of the print media guide is coincident with the print surface thereby guiding the print media over the print surface. Support for this amendment can be found at page 12, lines 23-27 and in Fig. 3 of the present application; and

dependent claims 2-4 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1 and claim 4 dependent therefrom are patentably distinct from claims 1 and 9 of copending Application No. 10/760,191 in view of Lodal et al. (US 2003/0202034), for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, a print media guide 5 is affixed to the casing 20 of the printhead module(s) 30 in manner which ensures that the print media, onto which the printhead integrated circuits 51 of the module(s) print, does not make direct contact with the nozzles of the printhead integrated circuits. That is, the print media guide is mounted to the casing so that a surface of the guide which contacts the print media is coincident with the print surface formed by the printhead integrated circuits (see page 6, lines 4-11, page 12, lines 23-27 and Fig. 3 of the present application).

On the other hand, as admitted by the Examiner, claims 1 and 9 of copending Application No. 10/760,191 do not teach a print media guide, and it is respectfully submitted that Lodal does not teach or suggest a print media guide having a print media contact surface coincident with a print surface of the inkjet print head.

This is because, the guide 26 disclosed by Lodal is positioned adjacent the print head 20 so that the surface of the guide which contacts the print media 28 is opposite the print surface. This arrangement is used in Lodal, because the guide is merely an adaptation of a conventional print media support platen having a gap therein so that a service station can clean the print head.

Whilst Lodal discloses that such opposed positioning maintains a spacing 30 between the print media and print head, it can be clearly seen, for example, from FIG. 1 of Lodal, that the print media is free to move between the contact surface of the guide and the print head. As such, direct contact of the print media with the print head is possible, contrary to the arrangement of the claimed invention. Further, the disclosure of Lodal does not motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the opposed positioning of the guide since this positioning allows placement of an ink sponge 44 to absorb ink removed by the service station (see paragraphs [0006], [0023]-[0025] and [0036] of Lodal).

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-4 dependent therefrom, is patentably distinct from claims 1 and 9 of copending Application No. 10/760,191 in view of Lodal.

Regarding Drawing Objections

Regarding Fig. 17C

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments to omit reference to Fig. 17C in the present specification, provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding reference sign "500"

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to Fig. 43 to insert the reference sign "500", provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-4 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook (US 6,439,908) in view of Lodal, for at least the above-discussed and following reasons.

As discussed above, in the present invention the print media guide is mounted to the casing so that the surface of the guide which contacts the print media is coincident with the print surface formed by the printhead integrated circuits so that the print media does not make direct contact with the printhead integrated circuits.

As admitted by the Examiner, Silverbrook does not teach a print media guide. Thus, in any combination of Silverbrook and Lodal, the opposed positioning of the print media guide taught by Lodal would be used, since as discussed above, there is no teaching or suggestion from the disclosure of Lodal to otherwise position the print media guide.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-4 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook either taken alone or in combination with Lodal.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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